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S.N. 10/090,656

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action of March 24, 2004 and wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the formal allowance of claims 1-13 and the substantive allowance of claims 16-26. In response to this Office Action the Applicants amend the claims to accept the allowed coverage. The Applicants, however, also reserve their right to file for patent protection on any canceled claims in a continuation or division application without prejudice.

In response to the Office Action the Applicants amend claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter of substantively allowed claim 16. Thus, claim 14 is placed in condition for allowance. With this amendment claims 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 17-21 which depend from claim 14 are also in condition for allowance. In order to insure that these claims meet all formal requirements, some minor amendments have also been made to claims 18, 19 and 21.

Substantively allowed claims 22-26 have all been rewritten in independent form. These claims are now also in condition for formal allowance.

In addition to amending all the claims in order to accept the allowed coverage, the Applicants also now affirm the election of the invention of Group I claims 1-26 for examination in the present application. Claims 27 and 28 are canceled without prejudice and patent protection to these additional inventions of Groups II and III will be pursued in divisional patent applications.

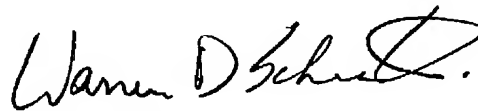
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In summary, all the pending claims patentably distinguish over the art and should be allowed. Upon careful review and consideration it is believed the Examiner will agree with this proposition. Accordingly, the early issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date April 27, 2004 